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EDITORIAL

Having got away to a successful start with our 'New Look' magazine, we look forward to more frequent and interesting issues.

On the UFO scene strange things are happening. There has been an almost complete dearth of sightings since August 1969, when we held our highly successful UFO Exhibition in the Horticultural Hall, Melbourne. However, we assume this is merely coincidence.

This quiescent phase appears to be world-wide and has set many speculating upon the mysterious tactics of the biggest mystery of our times.

When one looks back over almost a quarter of a century of sightings which, if totalled up, reach astronomical proportions, (5,000,000 people in America alone claim to have seen UFOs), it seems incredible that we are no nearer to solving the enigma of their origin and intention than we were at the beginning. In fact, let's face it, there is still no scientifically acceptable proof of their existence, sufficient to convince the hard-core sceptic. Evidence yes, reams of it, and of a quality, in my view, to convince any court of law in the land. However, the ephemeral nature of the UFOs, the inability to produce one for inspection and the fantastic nature of some of the incidents involving UFOs, places it in a similar category, to the uninformed sceptic, to psychic phenomena.

Also, perhaps because it transcends normal experience and engenders in a lot of people the frightening spectre of the unknown, it becomes an emotionally charged subject and one very difficult to regard dispassionately.

This sudden cessation of sightings causes some to wonder whether they have completed the purpose for which they came and have now returned home, wherever that may be. However, they haven't quite disappeared; there have been a few odd sightings here or there and the elders of the clubs are quick to remind us that around about 1957 a similar thing happened - lasting about five years and generally referred to now as 'the dark ages'.

Perhaps the most frustrating thing, from the point of view of those of us keenly

interested in the phenomenon, would be for UFOs to depart leaving us still in complete ignorance.

Everybody likes a mystery and it is particularly this aspect of UFOs that makes them such a fascinating subject, such an irresistible challenge to people of inquiring mind and insatiable desire to get at the truth of things.

Speculation and theories concerning their purpose range all the way from the now familiar 'benevolent brotherhood assisting their weaker brethren' to an explanation published recently, which referred to them as 'the gardeners of the earth', suggesting that they had planted a race of creatures here aeons ago and, like good gardeners, visited their crops from time to time to see how they were coming along.

Probably the most rational theory is that they are conducting a survey of the earth for some purpose known only to themselves, which naturally poses the questions - Why? What happens when they finish it? How long would a survey of this type be likely to last?

Their surreptitious methods, operating almost entirely at night, and their aversion to contact with humans would seem to indicate that they have no desire to fraternize. However, to reverse the situation, if our scientists eventually visit an inhabited planet and discover a primitive and inferior type of humanoid living there, would they want to contact them, or merely make scientific observations?

Whatever the purpose of the UFOs' visitation the bald fact remains that we do not yet know the answer, but perhaps this is just what makes the game so darned interesting!

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THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE

and the possibility of life on other planets.

by P.G.Gittins.

To present a paper of this type poses more than just a few problems. I have had to ask myself a series of questions and then try to find an answer to them. For example:-

Just how much interest does the reader have in space travel and space exploration?

What would be the starting point for such a paper as this?

Of my material, how much can I safely and accurately say is scientific fact, how much is sound reasoning and deduction, and how much may be just plain wishful thinking?

Thinking in these terms, may I quote from the 1966 Queensland Education Department Science Syllabus:- "...the scientific study of the Universe has always been one of mankind's greatest adventures.....Lessons should stimulate and develop the sense of wonder.... Speculative discussion, imaginative thinking, intelligent guessing (based on previous knowledge) will play an important role in helping the student explore the Universe.....".

And again from the same book:- "It is more important that students be encouraged to ask questions than to be satisfied with an answer, for all answers in science are necessarily incomplete.....".

I have carefully considered these points and decided that perhaps the best approach would be to divide my paper into six distinct parts, each part based on what might be called a 'leading question':-

(1) Why bother with space research and exploration?

- (2) What types of problems are we trying to solve?
- (3) What are the possibilities of life on other planets?
- (4) What form could extraterrestrial life possibly take?
- (5) Where is everybody?
- (6) What about 'Unidentified Flying Objects'?

The reader will notice I am posing quite a few questions - questions to which, in some cases, we have no definite answer. I am doing this deliberately as I feel it is important that the reader be stimulated to think about and to consider these things.

But a word of caution - be aware of the vague borderline which separates bold scientific speculation from fantasy or wishful thinking. To quote an old Chinese proverb:- "The man who eagerly awaits the arrival of a friend should not mistake the beating of his own heart for the thumping hooves of the approaching horse".

Part 1. Why bother with space research and exploration?

There are four basic factors which dictate the reasons for space research and exploration. These are:-

- (i) Man's compelling urge to explore and discover.
- (ii) New opportunities for scientific observation and experiment.
- (iii) Defence objectives.
- (iv) National prestige.

Here on Earth we are restrained and limited. Space research and exploration is a means of finding out more of what lies beyond. Through space research and exploration we are not limited to the water anymore. We are not limited to the air. We are not limited by the gravity of the Earth. We can overcome those limitations and move out any place we really want to go.

To those (and there are many) who ask:- "Is it important to find out?" I would answer that if you do not know what is beyond, then obviously you do not know whether discovery is important or not.

Space research and exploration will provide information of value in many fields of technology - for example:- (to page 3)

aviation	guidance systems
aerodynamics	medicine
aeronomy	meteorology
dietics	radiation
gravimetry	telemetry

Space capability is many things. It is, for example, a new instrument for research, like Leeuwenhoek's microscope or Galileo's telescope. With it, man can now see what he could not see before. He has already discovered with artificial satellites the Van Allen belts - those zones of radiation made up of charged solar particles trapped in Earth's magnetic field. He has determined from satellites that the Earth is slightly pear-shaped and has a tail of solar particles that stretches nearly four million miles in the direction opposite the Sun. Eventually, astronomers want to place telescopes into orbit, where they can view the heavens from above the distortions of the Earth's atmosphere.

The space capability serves as a ship of discovery, like Cook's 'Endeavour' or Darwin's 'Beagle'. From the 55,000 pictures of the Moon, transmitted by American spacecraft, scientists have put together the first map of the side of the Moon never seen from Earth, and a far more detailed map of the entire Moon.

The space capability opens up a new medium for experimentation, like Fleming's culture plate or Pasteur's sour milk. Scientists can run tests for the first time in an environment alien to Earth. They have, for example, observed six tadpoles returned from a 45 hour flight aboard a biosatellite, along with a multitude of fruit flies and bacteria, wheat seedlings and flour beetles. The purpose - to see what effect, if any, weightlessness had on the growth of living organisms.

The space capability can also stand as a military sentinel, like a reconnaissance plane or a secret agent behind enemy lines. Many launchings each year by the USA and the USSR involve military satellites, primarily reconnaissance ships, nuclear detection patrols and, possibly on the Russians' part, test vehicles of advanced re-entry systems for space weapons.

Finally, the space capability serves as a symbol of power. It is the 21st Century

version of the 19th Century idea of 'showing the flag'. The first Sputnik certainly startled the world into a sober reassessment of Russia's technological strength. Since that event, more than one American leader has warned that a nation cannot be second in space and first on Earth.

I would suggest that these points provide a fairly satisfactory answer to the first leading question.

Our view of the Universe has emerged as the result of a mode of thinking and a direction of interests which are historically very new. Is there any reason, however, to suppose they are final?

Drugs like LSD emphasise that our everyday consciousness is involved in a delicate biochemical balance which is easily upset. Other peoples and other epochs experienced the Universe in very different ways and had some very different interests. Suppose that human consciousness is engaged in a slow evolution. We may come to look back on their view of the Universe as a quaint historical curiosity. Interest and awareness may have moved on to quite different kinds of experience.

There is a very real sense in which the vast and awe-inspiring Universe in which we live is the product of our own explicitly 20th Century minds. We have never SEEN it: it is a great feat of imagination, which is then incorporated into the apparatus and experiments which confirm, with the help of a long chain of inference, our imaginings.

But the future could bring new imaginations. These would direct our attention to new phenomena, suggest quite different experiments, and could lead to quite new perspectives. Astronomy, physics, mathematics and psychology are drawing closer together than we sometimes think.

Part 2. What types of problems are we trying to solve?

These may be placed, for convenience, into two distinct categories:-

- (i) The problems of space travel itself.

These are either mechanical, such as:-

- (a) Materials and heat problems.

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MOON

Green cheese, or minerals?

by Dr. P.M.H. Edwards.

Dr. Edwards was, for some time, a member of this society and is now a researcher and represents the Canadian organization known as the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (CAPRO).

Certain Amerindian folk legends are quoted as ending with words to the effect that "this all happened before there was a Moon in our skies"...

We know how the Moon has long been the subject of debate: Was it always up there, orbiting our Earth? Was it, on the other hand, perhaps wrenched out of Earth, leaving a Pacific Ocean to fill the gaping hole? The very size of the Moon has caused some astronomers to state that it is too big to be an all-time satellite of ours. And so the conjectures continue to pile up but nothing, of course, can yet be proven beyond question.

As in all research, it is advisable to invoke several disciplines, so that they may all shed a ray of light on the problem. Doctor Immanuel Velikovsky has demonstrated that he is open-minded enough to pay some attention to legends as the bearers of more than a germ of truth: for that and other courageous propositions, he has suffered the ridicule of The Establishment; but... those who laugh last, laugh best. Let us see, then, what little pieces of evidence there may be, which can at least point towards the direction in which the truth may ultimately prove to lie.

We have already mentioned the existence of the Amerindian legends, which claim that Earth did not always have a satellite. Supposing those legends are true...! It would not be the first time that folk tales were later confirmed.

We know that the Andes rose comparatively recently, geologically speaking: Brasseur, in

his *Quatre lettres sur Mexique* (1868), concluded there was evidence that a massive cataclysm occurred in America a long time ago, and that migrants carried verbal legends of that upheaval to other parts of the world. Could this have been caused when Earth's gravitational field captured an errant Moon on its lonely journey through space? This idea is not as exaggerated as it sounds. Now, in great upheavals, it is known that, if an area rises, another area usually subsides, by compensation. And it would seem that the sudden rise of the west coast of the American continent (the chain of mountains from S. Chile up to Alaska) could very well have been offset by an equally sudden drop in what is now the Pacific Ocean basin. We know that certain writers have posited the prehistoric existence of an alleged continent, in that area, which they refer to as Mu, or Lemuria, - in much the same way as others claim, like Plato, that a continent called Atlantis once existed in the present Atlantic Ocean depression.

Now, when a great continent subsides, its refugee survivors are likely to be 'splashed' on to surrounding shores, and to remain there in comparative safety. After so great a passage of time, however, it is well-nigh impossible to prove a relationship between peoples living around the Pacific Ocean. But, to anyone interested in language study, certain shadowy similarities are evident here and there; and another small piece of evidence is at times available - of a negative kind -, namely, the absence of satisfactory knowledge about the origins of certain peoples.

This Review is not a philological publication; and even if it were, details of a linguistic prehistory of the Pacific Ocean basin (assuming them to be available in digested, or digested form) could be tedious, if only because they would be so tenuous. However, there would appear to be vestigial remnants of an early linguistic connexion between the languages of the New Zealand Maoris, the people of the Hawaiian Islands, the Japanese, and the inhabitants of Easter Island, inter alia. Nothing can be proven; but a trained linguist may, if he is unafraid, and puts his ear to the ground, discern certain small phenomena which might point to a primitive connexion between present-day rim-

people around the Pacific area. As regards negative evidence mentioned above, it just could be interesting to note that the Japanese language stands almost alone in the world, being connected only with Luchuan. There exists an argument for connecting it also with Korean, but this might possibly be due to cultural contaminations emanating from Japan, although some think that the contacts were in the reverse direction. Where, then, did the Japanese come from, if no other languages related to it can be found? The syllabic structures of many Pacific rim-languages (including Japanese) appear to echo early close relationships. It is manifestly impossible, when dealing with prehistory so far back in time, to work on vocabulary (or lexical) relationships; the linguistic method known as glottochronology, indicates that, on an average, a language tends to lose its morphemes (or roots) at the approximate rate of 19 percent per 1,000 years, for the most basic vocabulary of the commonest words; for rarer (or, less basic) words, this rate is, of course, far higher. Can any layman read Old English today? Therefore, if the Pacific rim-languages were once connected, and later dispersed either by migration, or because of a tremendous cataclysm, they would retain little or nothing of a common basic vocabulary after an isolation of, say, 15,000 years.

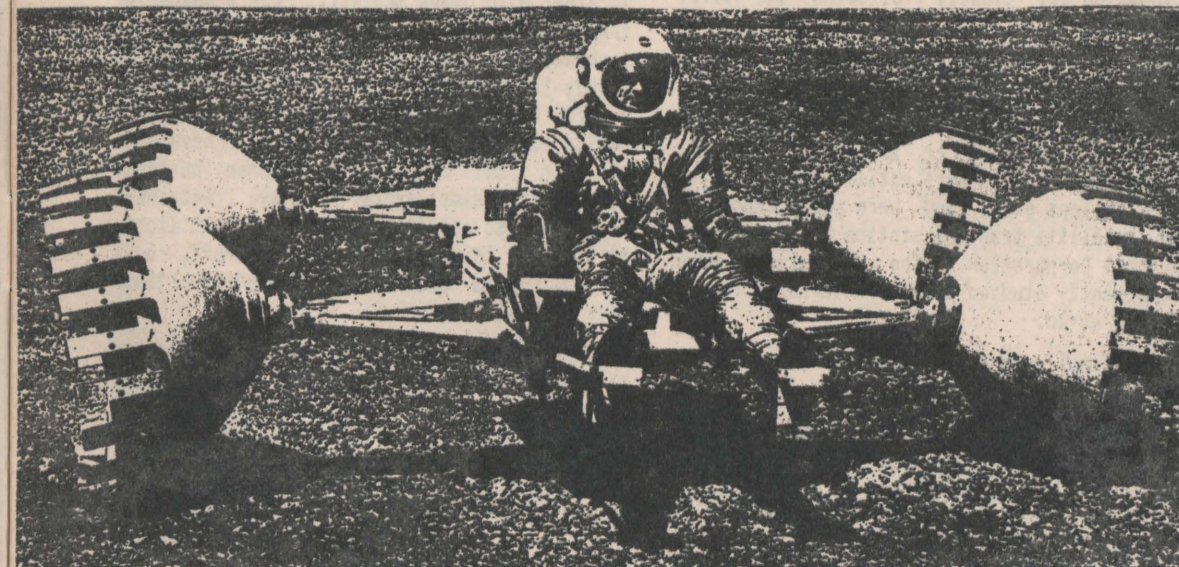
Compare the 'related' languages of Finland and Hungary, separated for only about 1,000 years: they are already mutually unintelligible! What would, however, remain, would be a wraith-like similarity in syllabic structure, and possibly certain features of syntax in common. A comparative study of Pacific rim-languages syntax might perhaps yield interesting results; certainly, their syllabic structures do display similarities, be they fortuitous, or otherwise.

Then, there is the interesting and suggestive fact that certain marine fossils exist around Lake Titicaca, between Peru and Bolivia, high up in the Andes.

And now, in conclusion, let us again consider the Moon. The courageous astronauts brought back samples of lunar rock and lunar dust; these are being analysed at present, and the scientists have discovered that:-

1. The Moon could be merely a shattered ball, broken into immense blocks, with the cracks reaching hundreds of miles down below its surface.
2. The lunar dust is fully 50 percent glass - shiny little glass globes and teardrops. No wonder the astronauts complained that the lunar surface was slippery.

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Newsweek, July 7, 1969 Moon crawler: Needed, a green light from Washington

ARE THE ASTRONAUTS SEEING U.F.Os?

by Kevin Arnett - an official
lecturer of Victorian UFO Research Society

The answer to this pertinent question is a resounding "yes"! And this is no mere speculation. The number of UFO sightings by American and Russian astronauts is growing at an alarming rate. It is important that we only concern ourselves with documented evidence of these sightings, however, as enough stuff and nonsense is already talked about the UFO phenomenon.

Thirteen years ago - in October 1957 - the first spacecraft 'Sputnik 1' was launched. Two months later, the Russians successfully launched 'Sputnik 2'. As the second 'Sputnik' passed over Caracas, Dr. Luis Corrales, of the Communications Ministry in Venezuela, took photographs of 'Sputnik 2'. One photo, when it was developed, showed trace of a second unknown object closely following the Soviet satellite.

On the 4th January 1960, two huge unknown objects appeared in space orbiting the Earth from east to west - a feat impossible to duplicate by America or Russia at that time. The strange objects were estimated to weigh at least 15 tons each, and were photographed at the satellite tracking station of the Grumman Aircraft Corporation. The photographs were subsequently studied by observatories throughout the world.

Mr. Frank Judson of the Adler Planetarium said, "They're not meteors because they're too low. And they're not artificial man-made satellites. The objects travel from east to west, whereas every artificial satellite has travelled from west to east. That's the only way we can take advantage of the earth's rotation.

One year after these two strange objects

had appeared, a large unknown object followed a Polaris rocket as it shot skywards on the 10th January 1961. The tracking station at Cape Kennedy was thrown into confusion when their radar locked onto the mysterious object for 14 minutes!

On the 17th July 1962, a Major Robert White established an altitude record when he flew the American X-15 high altitude rocket to 314,750 feet. Suddenly he shouted back to the ground control station, "There are things out there!" A large, greyish-white object had appeared and flew alongside his 'plane, travelling at a cool 3,800 miles per hour! The object then casually moved ahead of him, and finally glided over his 'plane's canopy. This report was carried by the wire services, and mentioned in TIME magazine.

Now here is an Australian report from the space-tracking station at Muchea in Western Australia. While flashing over this country on his fifteenth orbit on the 16th May 1963, Gordon Cooper informed the ground station that a glowing green light, with what appeared to be a red tail, was approaching his spacecraft. Whatever it was, was also detectable from the earth, and personnel at Muchea estimated its altitude to be 100 miles above the earth.

The first American astronaut to make a 'space walk' was the late Edward White. He, together with James McDivitt, was a member of the crew of the Gemini 4 spacecraft which was launched on the 3rd June 1965. Both these highly-trained astronauts observed, in space, a UFO which James McDivitt described as a "cylindrical object that appeared to have arms sticking out of it". Antennae perhaps? During the same space journey, Astronaut McDivitt also observed a moving bright light, at a higher level than the Gemini craft, over Hawaii. This UFO was photographed on 16mm. film by McDivitt.

We move forward only six months to December of 1965, with the launching of Gemini 7, piloted by James Lovell and Frank Borman. On the 4th December, both Borman and Lovell had a good look at an unidentified object during their second orbit. Borman announced, "We have a bogey at 10 o'clock high". ('Bogey' is official jargon of the U.S. Air Force meaning an unidentified object). The officials at the ground control station asked him to take a

closer look to see if it was their booster rocket. Borman replied, "We know where the booster is. This is an actual sighting!" An actual sighting of what?? Apart from this brief conversation recorded on official tape No.43 of the Gemini 7 flight, there has been no further comment from either NASA - or the astronauts.

So much for 1965. Up came 1966, and with it another UFO sighting - this time by Astronaut John Young after going into orbit on the 18th July 1966. Young radioed back to earth saying, "We have two bright objects up here in our orbital path. I don't think they are stars - they look like we're going right along with them". When the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston requested bearing on them, Young replied, "They just disappeared. I guess they were satellites of some kind".

Three of the foregoing reports were studied in great detail by the recent two-year "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" which was sponsored by the U.S. Air Force at the University of Colorado, with Dr. Edward U. Condon as director. As his principal investigator into the astronaut-UFO cases, Dr. Condon chose Dr. Franklin E. Roach, Professor Adjunct in the Astro-geophysics Department of the University of Colorado. Dr. Roach is also a consultant to NASA and has done research at various governmental agencies, including the National Bureau of Standards, and has taught at the University of Arizona.

In his report of McDivitt's sighting from Gemini 4 in June 1965, Dr. Roach says, "I had a conversation with Astronaut McDivitt on the 3rd October 1967, about his sighting and reproduce here my summary of the conversation. McDivitt saw a cylindrical-shaped object with an antenna-like extension. It was not possible to estimate its distance, but it did not appear as a 'point'. It gave a white or silvery appearance as seen against the day sky. The Gemini spacecraft was in free drifting flight somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. One still was taken of the UFO plus some movie exposures on black and white film. The impression was not that the object was moving parallel with the spacecraft, but rather that it was closing in, and that it was nearby. The reaction of the astronaut was

that it might be necessary to take action to avoid a collision.....".

"It is McDivitt's opinion that the object was probably some unmanned satellite. The North American Air Defence Command made an investigation of possible satellites and came up with the suggestion that the object might have been Pegasus, which was 1,200 miles away at the time. McDivitt questions this identification.....".

"A preliminary identification of the object as Pegasus is suspect. When fully extended, Pegasus-8 has a maximum dimension of 29.3 metres, which corresponds to 1/20 minutes of arc at a distance of 2,000 kilometres (about 1,200 miles). This is much too small an angular extension for the structure of the craft to be resolved and thus does not agree with McDivitt's description of 'arms sticking out'.....".

Dr. Roach ends his extensive scientific analysis of astronaut UFO sightings thus: "The training and perspicacity of the astronauts put their reports of sightings in the highest category of credibility. They are always meticulous in describing the facts, avoiding any tendentious interpretations....".

"The three unexplained sightings (examined by Professor Roach) which have been gleaned from a great mass of reports, are a challenge to the analyst. Especially puzzling is the first one on the list, the daytime sighting of an object showing details such as arms protruding from a body having a noticeable angular extension".

It seems that Dr. Roach's study for the Condon Project convinced him that the curious flying objects seen by the astronauts were indeed UFOs. Such a pity that Dr. Condon could not be convinced by the evidence. But then he didn't want to be convinced did he?

I think it is worthwhile, at this point, to remind you of a statement made by a much more forward-thinking scientist, Dr. Stanton I. Friedman, an Astronuclear Physicist from the Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. In a paper presented at the Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, U.S. House of Representatives, on 29th July, 1968, Dr. Friedman said, "I have concluded

that the earth is being visited by intelligently controlled vehicles whose origin is extraterrestrial. This doesn't mean I know where they come from, why they are here, or how they operate. Eyewitness, and photographic, and radar reports from all over the earth by competent witnesses of definite objects, whose characteristics such as maneuverability, high speed, and hovering, along with definite shape, texture, and surface

features, rule out terrestrial explanations".

So Dr. Condon and his ilk can try as hard as they like to hoodwink the public into believing that UFOs are just a figment of the imagination, but I prefer to face the facts! Something is going on up there! Exactly what, we can only guess. But what a fascinating and absorbing study it is to us open-minded earthlings.

**WE WISH TO STRESS GENTLEMEN
THE IMPARTIAL UNBIASED NATURE OF
OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THIS UFO NONSENSE...**



CENSORSHIP !

In this edition we make public, for the first time, a letter from the Editor of The West Australian. The letter (see page 9) concerns one of the most interesting UFO encounters ever to occur over Australia.

Those of you who have watched and listened to the successful landings on the moon may have wondered why the pictures come direct from the astronauts through Honeysuckle Creek, while the sound must first go to Houston, Texas for classified reasons. Herein lies one of those reasons:-

On the 16th May, 1963, newsmen at Cape Canaveral overheard Gordon Cooper report that, while on his 15th orbit over Western Australia, he had a close encounter with a UFO. This news was broadcast to the American people over the coast to coast network by NBC's John Chancellor.

Unknown to John Chancellor and the American people, at that time, was the fact that hundreds of people in Western Australia had also witnessed the sighting. After Cooper had landed and had been debriefed, however, he refused to comment on the matter.

But too late, the news was out, another slip and another rip in the Paper Curtain of Censorship!

WF

Mr. Paul Norman,
Sightings & Investigations Officer,
Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society,
P.O. Box 43,
MOORABBIN, VICTORIA.

December 9, 1964.

Dear Mr. Norman,

The only information we can give you in reply to your letter of November 17 is the following note made by our space reporter after astronaut Gordon Cooper's flight:

"During the orbital flight of astronaut Cooper, West Australian journalists covered the event from the offices of the Department of Supply, the Australian Federal Government agency through which N.A.S.A. operates in this country.

"This office is in Perth, but was connected by telephone and amplifier with the operations room at the Muchea tracking station, 40 miles north of the city.

"Soon after Cooper's spacecraft passed over our coast on his 15th orbit I received news from a local TV station, whose staff were trying to obtain a possible sighting of Faith 7, of a bright flash in the sky, described as of green colour. A few moments later my office telephoned me to report that it was receiving calls from Perth people who had also seen a light in the sky.

"I passed these reports on to the Muchea tracking staff and later received the reply that it was not possible for anyone there to determine definitely whether the light was connected with the project. Muchea also reported that some of the Commonwealth (or Federal) Police which guard the station had also reported the light.

"We, the journalists, in the absence of confirmation by Muchea, worked out the re-entry time for the Xenon lights and agreed that the timing would almost exactly coincide with the light seen.

"But it must be appreciated that at this stage we were not aware that a majority of sightings were reported to be of a light travelling in an east-west direction.

"At The West Australian office, meanwhile, further telephoned reports were being received of the sighting. More people than usual were looking at the skies that evening because we had reported in The West Australian that a sighting of Faith 7 might be possible on the 14th and 15th orbits.

"The reports received came from as far north as Muchea and as far south as Bridgetown, a north-south coverage of some 200 miles.

"Had we been aware that astronaut Cooper had also reported the east-west light, we might have treated the matter differently. As it was, it was not until we received a letter from Los Angeles in July that we knew of this.

"I checked again then with the staff at Muchea and I understand that they were not aware of Cooper's sighting.

"It is possible, therefore, that although Cooper reported having seen the east-west light while crossing over Western Australia, he did not report it until he was in voice contact with Woomera tracking station, some 1,700 miles east of Perth."

Yours faithfully,
Griff Richards,
Editor.

MP: Was 'saucer' in my sacaline?

From Kevin Childs

CANBERRA. — An MHR has asked the Air Force to investigate whether a flying saucer landed on his property at Bungawalyn on the Richmond River last week-end.

Mr Robinson, Country Party member for the NSW North Coast electorate of Cawston, says he is baffled by what happened in his sacaline patch.

Sacaline is a fodder crop. Mr Robinson's crop stands 10 ft. high.

The farm is run by a share farmer. Last Sunday he asked Mr Robinson to have a look at some strange damage to parts of the two-acre sacaline crop.

"What I saw has me perplexed," Mr Robinson said. "I just can't find any explanation short of a visit by some strange craft."



MR ROBINSON

Marks on ground

An area of the crop measuring 60 ft. by 25 ft. had been flattened. All the sacaline stalks were lying from north to south and were bent over at ground level.

An area along one side had marks on the ground which appeared to have been made by a moving object.

"A normal wind would

"HERALD"

Melbourne, Vic.

have blown the lot over." Mr Robinson said. "Indentations on the crop showed that something near the ground had moved along there."

The prevailing wind blows in the opposite direction to the way the crop was bent.

Around the flattened area the crop was intact. But some yards further on a smaller area had been flattened.

24/4/69.

Mystery blast over Sydney

SYDNEY — An unidentified flying object exploded over Church Point, an outer Sydney suburb, late last night, shattering windows and shaking houses.

Several residents reported seeing an "orange object" explode in the sky.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Hewison, of Newport, said they were sitting in their garden when they saw an orange object high in the sky. Mr. Hewison said that about five minutes later

the "thing" exploded. Mrs. Helen Caples, of Church Point, said she heard an explosion and that it shook her house.

"It sounded as if I was standing a few feet from a cannon," Mrs. Caples said.

One of her neighbors said it sounded like "a plane blowing up."

The proprietor of the Passadeena Restaurant at Newport, Mr. A. J. Hackett also reported hearing the explosion.

Many of the diners heard it.

Police in Sydney last night were mystified as to the cause of the explosion as no planes were reported missing.

Water police and the volunteer coastal patrol were investigating sightings of flares off the coast near Church Point, but no connection between the flares and the explosion had been established late last night.

"ADVOCATE" 26/4/69.

Burnie, Tas.



CLUB SECRETARY Mr Fred Longden behind the triangular mark on the fairway.

Was it a saucer?

SYDNEY. — The secretary of St. Michael's golf course in Sydney's eastern suburbs, Mr Fred Longden, believes a flying saucer may have landed on the 17th fairway last night.

This follows the discovery early today of a triangular burn mark on the links.

At the three points of the triangle are deep impressions, each 8 in. wide and 2½ in. deep. They are 16 ft. apart.

Assistant greenkeeper Mr Leslie Ryan, 44, and his offsider Alan Harriett, 28, found the triangular impression about 7 a.m. today.

Mr Ryan immediately notified the course curator, Mr Bill Somers, who sent for Mr Longden.

Mr Longden said it looked as though a rocket had made the burn and something heavy had landed.

"There was a heavy dew this morning and if anyone had walked across they would have left a mark," he said.

"There were no footprints or tyre marks nearby."

"The course ranger rode horseback through the area last night on his regular patrol, but he saw no sign of the mark then."

Mr Longden today called the Department of Civil Aviation and an officer informed him he should call the RAAF.

"The Government has asked the RAAF to investigate all similar sightings," he said.

"I felt I'd wasted enough time already, so I did not call them," he added.

Greenkeepers will preserve the triangular mark for further investigation.

"HERALD"

Melbourne, Vic.

23/6/69.

UFO IS CHASING APOLLO TO MOON

Rocket?

Ground controllers could not agree with the astronauts as to what the mystery object could have been.

When spacecraft commander, Charles Conrad, reported sighting the object, he said he suspected it was the spent S-IVB rocket which blasted the Yankee Clipper out of Earth orbit on Friday.

But Conrad replied this was unlikely.

"I remember seeing the panels pop off and leave us quite quickly," he said. "They travelled at quite a clip, and would certainly be well out of our way by now."

The mystery, however, did not seem to worry either the three Moon voyagers or the ground controllers.

Apollo is now 161,500 miles away from Earth and slowing appreciably as it coasts towards the Moon.

It is on a risky course which will doom its three "pace riders to be lost in space if the command service module rocket engine fails to fire.

But space scientists are confident the rocket will continue to work perfectly.

"NEWSDAY"

Melbourne, Vic.
17/11/69.

MOTORIST SEES UFO NEAR AVOCA

An Ararat motorist claimed yesterday that he sighted an unidentified flying object near the Pyrenees Highway on Friday night.

Formerly a strong sceptic and had taken on a shortened-cigar shape. As he reached the object, it passed overhead and to the left-rear of his car, and convinced him that these things could be really logical.

The motorist, who prefers to remain anonymous, was on his way to Bendigo. Anxious to gain a better view, the motorist stopped his car and alighted.

After passing through within seconds the object Avoca, he saw what at first accelerated and shot away at appeared to be three lights on a low altitude in a northerly direction.

low miles ahead and to his right. By this time, the observer felt a little scared of what he saw. As he got closer, the object seemed to jump back into his car, and hurried off on covered in the one position, his way to Bendigo.

"ADVERTISER"

Ararat, Vic.

28/7/70.

RAAF plane chases UFO

BRISBANE, Saturday.—There were widespread reports of an unidentified flying object in northern NSW and Queensland yesterday.

The reports came from Kyogle, NSW, and the Darling Downs.

An RAAF jet from Amberley air force base near Ipswich chased the object to a height of 40,000 ft, but could not get near enough to see what it was.

Residents of the Darling Downs said the object resembled a plastic balloon,

SEEN OVER NSW, QLD

and at times an aluminium Zeppelin airship.

Department of Civil Aviation officials believe it could have been an experimental balloon released for research purposes from Mildura in Victoria.

Over town

At Kyogle, the object seemed to hang suspended in the sky west of the township for more than three hours.

"MIRROR"

It then disappeared.

The Brisbane Weather Bureau suggested the object might be a balloon from Christchurch, New Zealand, or Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean.

Mrs Ivy King, of Kooroongarra, 20 miles from Millmerran, was one of the first to sight the object at about 9 a.m.

"It was like a huge transparent bubble, and quite beautiful to watch," she said.

"It stayed over Millmerran and Kooroongarra for hours, being still there in the mid-afternoon."

Millmerran is 54 miles south-west of Toowoomba.

Mrs J. Fraham, wife of the Millmerran police sergeant, said: "I saw the thing at 10 a.m. and it was still up there at lunch-time."

"Everybody was standing out in the main street here, watching it."

An RAAF spokesman at

Amberley said: "We received many reports of an object in the air south-west of Toowoomba."

"We happened to have a Canberra jet in the air on a training flight."

"The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Errol McCormack, was ordered to investigate the reports."

Plastic

"At 11 a.m. he discovered the balloon, which appeared to be of plastic material, possibly metallic in color. He t it at 40,000 ft."

"It was impossible to estimate its size. We are checking several sources to find the balloon's origin."

The Weather Bureau acting regional director, Mr A. T. Brunt, said the balloon could be from Christchurch or Ascension Island (between Africa and South America).

"At Christchurch they are releasing 'ghost' balloons as part of a

NEW YORK, Sunday.

— A mystery space chase developed today as Apollo 12 sped towards the Moon.

The three astronauts reported sighting another man-made object "tagging along" in space more than half-way between the Earth and Moon.

round-the-world observation programme," Mr Brunt said.

"If this is one, it would have travelled almost round the world. It would not have come westward from Christchurch."

"And at Ascension Island the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is releasing balloons. These pick up satellite signals," Mr Brunt said.

30/8/69.

'NESTS' AND 'LANDING PADS'

by Judith Magee

REVIEWING SOME OF THE KNOWN 'NESTS' AND
'LANDING PADS' IN AUSTRALIA.

On the 19th January 1966, Mr. George Pedley was passing the property of his neighbour, Mr. Albert Pennisi, when he observed an unidentified object rise and take off at great speed with an ear-piercing, hissing noise, from Horseshoe Lagoon on the property.

The object, which was observed from a distance of about 25 yards, was about 25 feet in diameter, 9 feet in height and blue-grey in colour. It spun at a terrific rate as it rose vertically to about 60 feet and then made a shallow dive and rose sharply, travelling at a fantastic speed. He saw no portholes or antennae and there was no sign of life either in or about the object.

He had passed this spot the evening before and all had seemed quite normal, with green grass-like reeds protruding up to three feet above the surface of the lagoon, which is four to five feet deep. However, the waterhole now displayed an area of 30 feet in diameter where reeds had been flattened as if by the weight of something on it. Mr. Pedley stated that the reeds "were without exception bent below water level, dead and swirled around in a clockwise manner, as if they had been subjected to some terrific rotary force." (Note: rotary force suspected in the Tommy Melbourne case.)

Mr. Alf. Macdonald, who is a Stock Routes Inspector for Northern Queensland, dived, with Mr. Pennisi and a member of the local Police, into the waterhole. On inspection, he gained the impression that "some force has sucked the roots up cleanly into the floating 'nest'...". He said, "There was no stubble

under this circle. The roots were sucked up whole and the lagoon floor was smooth."

Mr. Macdonald has lived in the district since 1933 and he ruled out the possibility, gained on first impression, that reed eating grubs might have caused the phenomenon. "They cause water grasses to collapse," he is reported to have said, "but the roots and remnants stay, like stubble, on the lagoon bed." The grubs would have had to work 'overtime' and completed their work in one night, according to Mr. Pedley's observations on the previous evening.

The University of Queensland stated that "the 'nests' could have been the result of severe turbulence, which normally accompanies line squalls and thunderstorms in North Queensland at that time of year."

In a communication to Mr. P.E. Norris, who was then President of the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation (CAPIO), the Secretary, Department of Air, Canberra, attempted to 'talk away' the 30 ft. 'nest' with the following statement, "This whirling mass of tropical air associated with thunderstorm activity, on reaching the earth's surface, may dissipate and subside or persist giving rise to dust eddies, water spouts etc., leaving telltale circular patterns on the ground. Should it occur over a swampy reed bed, the effect would be to flatten the reeds with a circular pattern...".

Was it that in January 1966 we had just commenced having the type of weather conditions that would create these 'nests' or had we only just begun to notice things as 'nests'? I would be more inclined to think that the 'landing pads' had more recently arrived because in the article THE TULLY 'NESTS', written for our number 5 magazine by a meteorologist, weather patterns in the area over a lengthy period were extensively covered and no 'nests' had previously been reported.

The fine weather conditions of the previous night (Jan. 18th), with lack of hot winds and searing century temperatures, could not account for the dead reeds in the lagoon the following morning and the sun had been up for only a brief time. Nor could it be understood why, if a 'local wind storm' had managed to slip by the Bureau of Meteorology station's

(To page 13).

'blind eye', there was no damage to trees, shrubs or vegetation outside the perimeter of the 'nest'. This lack of damage to surrounding countryside was also noted where a number of smaller 'nests' had been discovered in the region during the following weeks. Analysis of the reeds showed that they required air for survival and had 'drowned' because some heavy weight had held them under the water. Perhaps this severe 'updraught', 'downdraught', 'willy willy', 'whirlwind' or whatever had been resting there all night waiting for Mr. Pedley to come by in the morning, just in time to see it rise from the lagoon! It would have had to be of severe strength indeed to suck the roots up from the bed of the lagoon and cause them to rest in a foot deep 'nest' on top of five feet of water.

There have been numerous attempts to explain away these 'nests' - - - willy willys, whirlybirds and even a somewhat serious suggestion that they may have been 'built by Broilgas before carrying out their mating dance'!!

However, no matter how many official conclusions there may be, the people of Tully live in the area - not several hundred miles away - and they are convinced that these 'nests' are not natural phenomena.

(Note: Mr. Pedley's description of his sighting is very like many others in that his remarks, regarding his prior beliefs on the subject, were that if anyone had asked whether he believed in UFOs he would have laughed and thought they were 'nuts'. Obviously, seeing is believing as he says he now knows better!)

Other 'nests', some of doubtful origin, made news headlines in 1966. One in particular, however, was of considerable interest to this Society although our attempts to gain detailed accounts of this sighting were hampered by school authorities who had apparently been instructed not to mention the incident. The children, being more co-operative, were quite willing to fill us in on the details and show us the 'landing pads'.

On the 6th April, 1966, it was reported that a number of children and their science teacher had observed an unidentified flying object near the school at Westall, a suburb of Melbourne.

It was first seen by a class of girls who were having a physical education lesson. They noticed a silvery object flying around some pine trees about a quarter of a mile behind the school. The girls ran down to the corner of the schoolground to get a better view and it was not long before the rest of the children, during their recess period, were following.

One of the girls, Marilyn Eastwood, described the object as being round with a "hump on top and round things underneath."

The science teacher, Mr. Greenwood, stated that it appeared "like a thin beam of light, about half the length of a light aircraft." "It was a silvery-grey and seemed to 'thicken' at times, similar to when a disc is turned a little to show the underside." He said, "the object was never really stationary and seemed to move from side to side and up and down." (To page 14).



MELBOURNE "SUN" - 25th April, 1968.

At first there was one 'plane apparently observing the object but before long others joined it, totalling five in all. The small aircraft, which the children claimed were mostly Cessnas, tried to follow the object which would occasionally accelerate back and forth from east to west.

This Society made various enquiries at the Moorabbin airport (small 'plane airport) only to discover that none of the pilots had reported anything out of the ordinary, yet they had played a 'cat and mouse' game with the UFO!

Perhaps in those days chasing a UFO, or being chased by one, was not so exceptional; maybe people had become somewhat blasé about them because, in an approximate period between May 1965 and August 1966, there were so many UFO reports that we were beginning to think we were going to have to live with them.

PUZZLED POLITICIAN.

Another report to hit the news headlines was that of the SAUCER IN AN MP'S SACALINE. This was published in the Melbourne Herald on the 24th April, 1969.

Mr. I. Robinson, a member of the House of Representatives, had been asked by his share farmer on Sunday 20th April to have a look at some strange damage to his sacaline crop. (Sacaline is a fodder crop somewhat similar to maize and in this case was about 10 ft. tall.) The area affected was about 60 feet by 25 feet and had been smashed to the ground by some mysterious force. In a report to the Melbourne Age, Mr. Robinson commented that "it seems feasible that only some phenomenon such as a flying saucer could flatten the sacaline crop in such a strange way."

Mr. Robinson's farm is on the Richmond River, about 60 miles from Grafton, on the northern New South Wales coast. The prevailing winds on the previous night had been from the south, yet the crop had been flattened in the opposite direction as had a smaller patch a few yards from the larger area. Mr. Robinson said, "I am a bit puzzled but I can find no other explanation."

However, once again the officials came to the rescue with an explanation! Mr. Downes, a research scientist with CSIRO, stated to the

Canberra Times that sacaline was a very top-heavy crop subject to 'lodging' or falling over and flattening. Dr. Downes said, "Moisture stress, charcoal rot, fungus or wind, or a combination of these could easily cause it to fall over. The fact that only a small section of the crop was affected was consistent with patchiness of soils."

Surely, even if the crop had been affected by these possible 'causes', the affect would be to fall with the wind direction and not against it. Obviously the public is not expected to think for itself - just to accept. But it's my guess that fungus or rot is taking over at higher levels than this sacaline crop!

GOLFING UFONAUTS.

About 7.00 a.m. on the 23rd June 1969, two greenkeepers at a Sydney golf course discovered a triangular impression on the 17th fairway. The three points, which were 16 feet apart, had deep impressions at each corner about 8 inches wide and 2 1/2 inches deep. (Note: this sighting is reminiscent of the case reported by County Policeman Lonnie Zamora in New Mexico, U.S.A.)

Mr. Longden, the secretary of the club, said it looked as though a rocket had made the burn and something heavy had landed. There had been a heavy dew on the morning of the 23rd and if anyone had walked across the grass marks would have been left. There were no footprints or tyre marks on the grass. The course ranger had not seen any marks when on patrol the evening before.

Mr. Longden called the Department of Civil Aviation and an officer informed him that he should call the RAAF who had been asked by the Government to investigate all similar sightings. He did not bother to call the RAAF as he felt he had already wasted enough time but the greenkeepers would preserve the triangular mark for further investigation.

WITH OUR ASTRONAUTS landing on the moon and our space probes circling and landing on other planets, is it not feasible to consider the possibility of ufonauts landing on planet Earth? These 'nests' are obviously not all created by whirlybirds, willy willys, broilgas or cows, and the longer tracks surely not made
(To page 15).

by a rotary lawn-mower injected with some 'fast grow' instead of regular fuel in order to cut a swath of ten or more feet in width and considerably longer length. To what great pains one would have to go to create a hoax of this nature. It surely would not be worth the effort only to have officials 'talk it away'.

Mysterious 'Monuments' on the Moon.

Reviewing an article written by our member Ivan T. Sanderson for (August) Argosy for whom he is Science Editor.

The writer commences by saying that "four years ago, Russia's Luna-9 and America's Orbiter-2 both photographed groups of solid structures at two widely separated locations on the Lunar surface. These two groups of objects are arranged in definite geometric patterns and appear to have been placed there by intelligent beings. Since American space officials have chosen not to publicize these findings, our readers are probably not aware of their existence."

Photographs revealed two straight lines of equidistant stones that look like markers on an airport runway.

Something very puzzling was noted by the Russian scientist Dr. S. Ivanov who said that the second and third photos were taken at slightly different angles, but why the Lunar station changed its position between these two transmissions is not known.

MOON SPIRES.

These spires on the moon have caused a great deal of speculation for a number of years and this is probably the first time they have been described at length.

Two sets of photographs are compared, one set taken by the Russian Luna-9 in the Ocean of Storms, the other by Orbiter-2, 2,000 miles away, in the Sea of Tranquility.

The Orbiter-2 cameras were directed straight down, but showed what appeared to be shadows of eight spires.

Estimates of the height of the spires vary in both cases but Soviet Space Engineer Alexander Abramov came forward with a somewhat

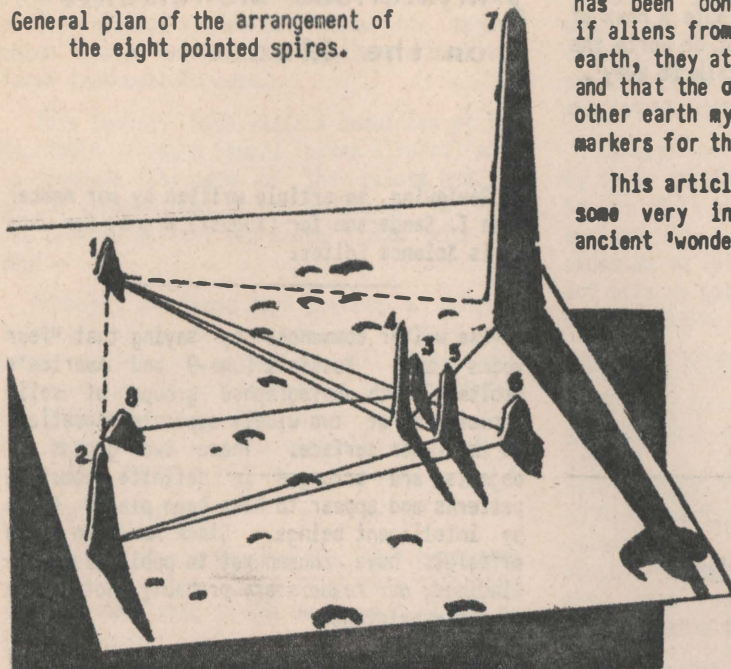
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General plan of the arrangement of the eight pointed spires.



startling geometrical analysis of the arrangement of these objects, which produced a pattern known in ancient Egypt as an 'abaka'. He stated that the centres of the spires of the lunar abaka are arranged in precisely the same way as the apices of the three great pyramids.

Apparently NASA did not consider the photographs of any great import saying that "Yes, we know of these photographs and they were very clear, but there has been no speculation on them and they have been filed for now."

In this interesting article we are informed of a remarkable publication released by NASA in 1968, entitled "Chronological Catalogue of Reported Lunar Events", which lists lights, both stationery and moving, some perfectly circular craters and other mysterious phenomena. Others have noted gigantic bridgelike structures under which the sun shone. It is pointed out too, that many apparently man-made structures seen on earth from a great altitude, proved to be simply natural phenomena.

This article points out that the Russians have been searching for possible life in outer space for many years, in fact much research has been done on early history showing that, if aliens from outer space did not inhabit the earth, they at least may have had bases here and that the obelisks and pyramids as well as other earth mysteries may have been used as markers for these space travellers.

This article may well be the beginning of some very interesting research into these ancient 'wonders' of this world.

J. M. MAGEE

SOCIETY BADGE.

Members are reminded that the Society's attractive badge is available at the following prices:

Brooch (pin) type	60¢
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THE DARTMOOR PHENOMENON

by W. A. Stapleton.

In January last, in company with another Society member, I journeyed to the Hamilton area to investigate a reported UFO landing site at Dartmoor - about 50 miles west of Hamilton and about 20 miles from the South Australian border. The incident had received front page coverage in 'The Hamilton Spectator' and we were very fortunate on this trip in having the personal attention of Mr. Kevin Balkin, Chief of Staff of that paper, who acted as our informant and guide and generally filled us in on the local scene.

The phenomenon was reported by Mr. Tom Melbourne, a batchelor farmer of some twenty years standing in the district, who lives alone in a farmhouse near the Glenelg River about 2 miles from Dartmoor.

When we reached the farmhouse, at about 2.30 p.m., we met Mr. Melbourne - a most friendly and cooperative man - and on the way to the area he told us his story. About three weeks previously he had been setting rabbit traps about a quarter of a mile from his house when he noticed a swath cut in the bracken. This swath was some 40 yards long and 4 feet wide. About 200 yards from the river, it ran north and south starting just inside a fence adjoining a track and ending on the brink of a 100 ft. drop to the valley below.

Arriving at the site I inspected the strip. At first it did not seem very impressive to me - a city slicker - but, after Tom explained it to me as seen through the eyes of a bushman with the instincts of a black-tracker to whom every crushed blade of grass tells a story, it began to take on significance. The bracken along the strip had been cut, frayed and twisted. The fern stalks were cut off about 12 inches from the ground and were virtually shredded for about 6 inches from the top.

Tussocks of grass along the strip had been violently twisted in a clockwise direction. Tom said he had racked his brains for an explanation for weeks but had been unable to find one. He said it could not have been made by a mower, slasher, scythe or any other blade instrument. Even a person beating the ferns with a stick or blade would not have produced such an effect.

Running up the hill to join the main strip are other swathes; these definitely indicate an aerial object landing as they are clipped off at the top at the furthest point from the main strip and are gradually cut off lower down until they merge with the main strip. I noticed that the area of broken bracken went right under a small overhanging tree whose branches, none of which seemed to have been damaged, began a few feet off the ground. However, adjacent to this tree, a small sapling had been bruised and cut at a point about 2 feet off the ground. The sap was oozing out of it. I estimated that a craft of about 10 to 15 feet in diameter could have fitted into this area under the tree.

One of the questions was - what could have caused this particular type of shredding of the bracken? I picked up a fern stalk and began to twist it. Bracken is very tough but finally it broke and 'Presto' it produced precisely the same effect! Looked at in conjunction with the twisted tussocks of grass, it appeared that something had violently twisted the bracken until it broke off. It would require a considerable force to do this. A willy willy was considered, but was rejected as being not strong enough. Also, the branches of the tree were undisturbed, although the bracken under the tree was broken in like manner. There have been many reports of rotating UFOs and, of course, the Tully 'nests' in Queensland had been violently twisted.

Since my investigation there Mr. Melbourne has, according to reports, discovered a further 'launching site' on his property. Although he has not seen any UFOs (he says he does not keep a look-out), a number of UFOs have been reported in the Heywood-Cashmore areas nearby.

All I can say is that if UFOs did not cause
(To page 18).

the swath in Mr. Melbourne's bracken, what did? No one has yet produced a rational explanation.

THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE (from page 3).

- (b) Power sources - chemical, nuclear or solar energy.
- (c) Guidance and navigational systems.
- (d) Re-entry systems.
- (e) Payload/fuel ratio.

or human problems, such as:-

- (a) Withstanding the high 'G' forces and weightlessness.
- (b) Survival drills and techniques.
- (c) Confinement to a small working area.
- (d) Loneliness in a strange environment.

and

(ii) Biological/Philosophical problems.

- (a) What about the origin of life? Is it common? If so, is it as highly evolved as we think we are? What characteristics in biology are peculiar to Earth and what are common to other planets? Is life, in the forms we know it, the only way of being?
- (b) Is our planetary system extremely rare or is it common?
- (c) Why is this enormous complexity here - Earth, the planets, life as we know it? What is the reason for it?

In his book, 'The Mysterious Universe', Sir James Jeans says:- "The stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-material reality and the Universe begins to look more like a Great Thought than a Great Machine."

Do we accept the premise that there is a reason for the Universe and for our being?

In trying to find answers and solutions to these questions and problems, it would be as well to ask ourselves just how much do we want to know - and how much would be understandable to us?

(To be continued in the next edition.)

THE DRURY CASE

by Peter Norris.

AUSTRALIAN FILM CASE SHEDS LIGHT ON OFFICIAL U.F.O. ATTITUDE.

Australian UFO researchers have long debated the well-springs of their country's official attitude to UFOs.

The local supporters of the "Grand Cover-Up" theory argue that the RAAF has always maintained liaison with the USAF on UFOs and possesses information from that body which supports the conviction that UFOs are interplanetary spaceships. This conclusion is assiduously withheld from the general public and presumably from the nation's elected representatives, who manifest little or no interest in the phenomenon even when, as recently happened, one of the mystery devices landed practically in one of their own member's back yard.

The supporters of the "Grand Foul-Up" theory argue that the RAAF is poorly equipped from a technological and philosophical point of view to investigate UFOs qua spaceships and is quite happy to abdicate the field and to depend entirely on information made available by the USAF for answering the occasional question asked in the House by some Member moved into action (usually at election time) by one or other of the private Australian investigatory groups.

Thus, a recent exchange of correspondence between the Minister for Air and a Victorian UFO researcher resulted in the latter receiving a virtual cart-load of material, including a photostat of a page from the Condon Report. Proof that someone in the Air Department had been doing his homework!

The spasmodic nature of the RAAF investigation has always been superficially apparent to even the most inexperienced researcher.

Were the Australian authorities convinced that UFOs are interplanetary spaceships it would be reasonable to assume that the

official UFO investigation would be contained in a programme accorded the highest priority and generous allocation of public funds. The Government would no doubt be anxious to secure further and preferably definitive evidence as to the vital questions of origin and purpose of the visitors, as well as valuable information of a technological nature.

Priority would then be given to the investigation of multiple witness sightings, close approaches and, in particular, photographic cases.

That this is not the case has been evident in numerous sightings reported during the last decade, in particular:

1. The Gill series of sightings in New Guinea, in 1959, involving the close approach of UFOs on two nights in the view of thirty-nine witnesses. Official investigation was belatedly carried out as a result of the virtual harassment of RAAF Intelligence by the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.
2. The Balwyn polaroid colour photograph of 1965.
3. The Hallam series of six photographs of 1967.

Each of the photographic cases was supported by corroborative evidence and the photographs themselves withstood careful expert analysis. Both cases were exhaustively published by the various news media, but no official investigation has been undertaken to this day.

But the most enlightening case in relation to Australian official policy is the Port Moresby film case of August, 1953, where I.P. Drury, Regional Director of the Department of Civil Aviation in New Guinea, secured a 16 m.m. colour movie film shot through a telephoto lens of a bullet shaped object flying at great speed over Port Moresby. Being in a position to know what kinds of aircraft were flying in the Territory and consequently disturbed by the nature of what he had seen, Drury presented himself to the RAAF representative in Port Moresby and handed him the film.

Next month, the then Minister for Air, Mr. W. McMahon, told the House of Representatives that the RAAF had secured a film of a

UFO and had sent it to the United States Air Force for evaluation.

No subsequent information has been forthcoming and the RAAF, as recently as 1965, denied any further knowledge of the sighting.

Nevertheless, confirmation of Minister McMahon's statement is belatedly provided by the recently-declassified "USAF Projects Grudge and Bluebook Reports 1-12" published by NICAP which lists the Port Moresby sighting against the evaluation of "Insufficient Data" (page 234).

In the light of this recent evidence the conclusion appears inescapable that the Australian Government's UFO investigation effort is at best a low priority project and that heavy reliance is placed on the United States authorities for assistance in evaluation of UFO evidence.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Copies are now available of editions nos. 6, 7 and 8 of A.F.S. Review. These three editions are the last three issues of THE REVIEW prior to this current series.

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3. This abundant glass; the radioactivity in the lunar rocks; the rocks' high density compared with the rest of the Moon; their strange chemical make-up; - all this seems to indicate, according to Dr. Paul Gast of Columbia University, an evolutionary history very different from that of Earth. In other words, it could have originated a long way away, and entered our gravitational field by chance, causing a cataclysm of global proportions.

4. The abundance of glass points to the fact that the Moon must have been greatly heated at some time in the past, (much more than the local heating caused by striking meteorites). The lunar rocks were quite clearly melted long ago, and the evidence seems to indicate that the heating went very deep under the surface. (See note at conclusion of this article).

One has often wondered why lunar 'craters' are so dissimilar to terrestrial craters. Some brave writers have sensibly pointed out that they look for all the world like the 'craters' temporarily made in liquid matter, when it boils, or when objects or drops of liquid fall into it. Allow drops of water to fall slowly into a basin of water, and 'lunar craters' will appear in the water, together with their typical central cones! One wonders whether the surface of the Moon - so far from being made of green cheese - was once a boiling mass of liquified rocks that suddenly congealed, retaining those strange shapes. Could its sudden arrival near Earth have caused the heating? Could its assuming of a regular orbit suddenly allow it to cool off during the long lunar night? All we know now, is that the Moon has not been a continuously evolving place like the Earth, and that the rate of meteorite hits and the formation of new craters has been far less than was formerly supposed. In fact, even our scientists know very little, still: We all have much more to learn.

Nothing of all this has any direct bearing on ufology. But the UFOs have been with us, according to the existing monumental pile of evidence, for thousands of years; and certain inexplicable phenomena, as well as certain dramatic changes from time to time,

have been observed on the Moon. We are still a long way from delving deeply into lunar secrets. But one wonders whether ufological studies could perhaps be focused more on our satellite, in future. It could well be that the principal interest of the visiting ufonauts lies on our Moon, and that Earth interests them only as a curious phenomenon, peopled by humans with whom they like to play at experiments in cross-breeding, as an indoor-sport; Earth, so close to the Moon, could be ideal for their week-end jaunts, when they feel the urge to 'let their hair down'.

It has been said that the Moon may turn out to be a happy hunting-ground for our miners; and if its origin lies far outside of our Solar System, its mineral content might be both different and extremely valuable. Perhaps that is what the ufonauts are after...

Note: In his WORLDS IN COLLISION, Doctor Immanuel Velikovsky states in Chapter 4, that two celestial bodies came perilously close to one another, and that, disturbed in their rotation, they developed heat. In fact, he brings forward much evidence from the past, that there was at least one period of great heat and dark clouds on this Earth. I know that, in the above book, all this is taken to indicate a near approach of Venus (then a new Comet). However, legends have a habit of confusing different incidents, and they often become welded into one: it is by no means impossible that there may have been two or more such periods, and that the legends from different parts of the world may be referring to different cataclysms - for, of course, they are not dated. If one of these near-collisions happened to be with what is now our Moon, one can understand why it shows signs of great heating; presumably the Earth, with its large quantity of water vapour, fared better than the Moon in this ordeal, and life was not altogether wiped out here. But the legends do indicate that for many years, there were thick, dark clouds overhead, so that the sky seemed very low, and vegetation was greatly inhibited during that time. It is, nowadays, fashionable to ignore Doctor Velikovsky's arguments and massive evidence. But a truly scientific researcher will ignore nothing, in his quest for what may be the truth.



This society would appreciate readers' reports on U.F.O.s. Please forward to P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Victoria, 3189, Australia.

V.U.F.O.R.S. SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

The No.10 edition of "Australian U.F.O. Review (published by the U.F.O. Investigation Centre of New South Wales) contains a confused and rather petulant tirade against V.U.F.O.R.S. and "Australian Flying Saucer Review."

The U.F.O.I.C. Editors accuse V.U.F.O.R.S. of lack of co-operation during the period when VUFORS and UFOIC published "Australian Flying Saucer Review" as a joint venture.

"From the very beginning, not a single literary contribution, article or other material from other groups ever reached our UFOIC editor. This man wrote, translated and practically typed (sic) every issue of the seven (7) published, up to 1963", says the UFOIC writer.

In fact, considerable material was contributed to the magazine by Mr. Peter Norris, President of VUFORS. This material included the editorials to numbers 2,3,4 and 5.

It is quite evident that the UFOIC editors are inclined to treat truth and accuracy very lightly indeed!

The true fact of the matter is that after November 1962, no issues of "Australian Flying Saucer Review" came from the Press, and VUFORS faced with a flood of membership resignations, was obliged to "go it alone" and commenced publication of its own magazine in May 1964. It was not until a considerably later date, that UFOIC also produced its own independent publication.

It is therefore evident that VUFORS' priority of claim to the title "Australian Flying Saucer Review" is well-founded.

Owing to the recent tragic death of Dr. Miran Lindtner, President of UFOIC, and the departure overseas of former UFOIC editor Andrew Tomas, Peter Norris is now the only principal who has personal knowledge of the events that led up to the cessation of publication of "Australian Flying Saucer Review" as a joint venture and perhaps this accounts for the astonishing mis-statement of facts appearing in the UFOIC article.

The VUFORS Committee is more interested in investigating UFO's than indulging in hysterical polemics against other UFO groups. However, a case of misrepresentation of the nature concerned in the present case cannot be permitted to go uncorrected.

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